



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Mitchell Creek Riparian Restoration

LOCATION: Mount Diablo State Park

COUNTY: Contra Costa

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Restore Mitchell Creek by removing barriers to rainbow trout, including removal of concrete rubble and rock diversion spillways, removal of old portions of road bed from creek banks, modification of two concrete/rock dams, installation of a fish ladder to allow fish passage past human made instream obstructions. Rock debris in creek will be retained on site outside of the active creek channel. Remove earthen dams and restoration of creek banks thereby eliminating a continued source of sediment, removal of a fire road culvert and installing a 50' clear span creek crossing bridge. Realign Mitchell Canyon fire road where road delivers sediment directly to the creek, removal of Mitchell Creek fire road graded soil berms which concentrate flows and discharge sediment loads into Mitchell Creek. Revegetation of riparian vegetation including plantings of willow and blue elderberry. If any archaeological resources are found during project implementation work will be halted and the district archaeologist will be contacted. Rock debris in the creek will be retained on site, although it may be slightly relocated to provide better stream flow. Preconstruction rare plant and animal surveys will occur prior to any construction. Impacts to Alameda Whipsnake and rare plants will be avoided through the use of preconstruction surveys, construction worker training, and biological monitoring during all phases of construction. Work will be conducted outside the bird breeding season if any nests are found to be within 250 feet of the construction area.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation
NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Diablo Vista District

EXEMPT STATUS: ☒ Categorical Exemption *Class:* 33 *Section:* 15333

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of small habitat restoration project not exceeding five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, and protection of habitat for fish, plants, and wildlife

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/s/
Don Monahan
District Superintendent
Diablo Vista District

8/23/06
DATE